

IN THE CLAIMS

1. (Currently amended) A method of servicing a pen in an inkjet printing device, said pen comprising a plurality of nozzles, said method comprising:

receiving a print job;

determining with said printing device a level of print quality required for said print job, wherein said level of print quality is based on a set of flexible criteria;

detecting the operating characteristics of a plurality of nozzles to be used to print said print job; ~~and~~

comparing said operating characteristics of said plurality of nozzles to said required level of print quality for said print job and, in the event, based on the comparison, that said operating characteristics of said plurality of nozzles are sufficient to meet said level of print quality, printing said print job; and

performing a recovery procedure in the event that said operating characteristics of said plurality of nozzles are not sufficient to meet said level of print quality.

2. (Previously presented) The method of claim 1, wherein said set of flexible criteria includes a resolution of said print job.

3. (Previously presented) The method of claim 1, wherein said set of flexible criteria includes a single and a multipass printmode of said print job.

4. (Previously presented) The method of claim 1, wherein said set of flexible criteria includes a setting of said inkjet printing device.

5. (Previously presented) The method of claim 1, wherein said set of flexible criteria includes an amount of media area required for said print job.

6. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein detecting the operating characteristics of a plurality of nozzles further comprises performing a drop detection test on said plurality of nozzles.

7. (Original) The method of claim 1, further comprising scheduling a maintenance procedure in the event that an individual one of said nozzles is not fully functional.

8. (Original) The method of claim 7, wherein said maintenance procedure is scheduled to be performed during a time when said inkjet printing device is idle.

9. (Original) The method of claim 7, wherein said maintenance procedure includes performing a wiping procedure on said pen.

10. (Original) The method of claim 1, further comprising after printing said print job, performing a wiping procedure on said pen in the event that a predetermined number of ink drops per nozzle has been exceeded.

11. (Original) The method of claim 1, further comprising after printing said print job, performing a wiping procedure on said pen in the event that said inkjet printing device remains idle for a period of time.

12. (Canceled)

13. (Currently amended) The method of claim 1, wherein said recovery procedure comprises a sequence of a plurality of different servicing procedures, and further wherein at least one of said plurality of different servicing procedures is repeatable, based on its recovery effectiveness.

14. (Currently amended) An inkjet printing device for printing on a medium comprising:

a processor ~~for determining~~that determines a level of print quality required for a received print job, wherein said level of print quality is based on a set of flexible criteria;

an ink drop detector ~~for detecting~~that detects the operating characteristics of a plurality of nozzles to be used to print said print job;

said processor further being capable of comparing said operating characteristics of said plurality of nozzles to said required level of print quality for said print job, and in the event, based on the comparison, that said operating characteristics of said plurality of nozzles are sufficient to meet said level of print quality, causing said inkjet printing device to print said print job, and wherein said processor also operates to perform a recovery procedure in the event that said operating characteristics of said plurality of nozzles are not sufficient to meet said level of print quality.

15. (Previously presented) The inkjet printing device of claim 14, wherein said set of flexible criteria includes a resolution of said print job.

16. (Previously presented) The inkjet printing device of claim 14, wherein said set of flexible criteria includes a printmode of said print job.

17. (Previously presented) The inkjet printing device of claim 14, wherein said set of flexible criteria includes a setting of said inkjet printing device.

18. (Previously presented) The inkjet printing device of claim 14, wherein said set of flexible criteria includes an amount of media area required for said print job.

19. (Original) The inkjet printing device of claim 14, wherein said processor operates to schedule a maintenance procedure in the event that one or more of said nozzles is not fully functional.

20. (Original) The inkjet printing device of claim 19, wherein said processor operates to perform said maintenance procedure during a time when said inkjet printing device is idle.

21. (Original) The inkjet printing device of claim 19, further comprising a printhead cleaning device, wherein said maintenance procedure includes performing a wiping procedure on said pen utilizing said printhead cleaning device.

22. (Original) The inkjet printing device of claim 14, further comprising a printhead cleaning device, wherein after printing said print job, said processor operates to perform a wiping procedure on said pen utilizing said printhead cleaning device in the event that a predetermined number of ink drops per nozzle has been exceeded.

23. (Previously presented) The inkjet printing device of claim 14, further comprising a printhead cleaning device, wherein after causing said inkjet printing device to print said print job, said processor operates to perform a wiping procedure on said pen utilizing said printhead cleaning device in the event that said inkjet printing device remains idle for a period of time.

24. (Canceled)

25. (Currently amended) The inkjet printing device of claim 24¹⁴, wherein said recovery procedure comprises a sequence of a plurality of different servicing procedures, and further wherein at least one of said plurality of different servicing procedures is repeatable, based on its recovery effectiveness.

26. (Previously presented) The method of claim 1, wherein said step of printing is carried out without first performing any maintenance procedure.

27. (Previously presented) The method of claim 1, wherein said step of determining is capable of determining that said print job and another print job have the same level or different levels of print quality.